

88. The multi-functional hand tool of claim 80, said first handle second end being disposed further away from said means for pivoting the jaws than said second handle second end.

89. The multi-functional hand tool of claim 81, further comprising a plurality of interchangeable tool bits, whereby the driver tool is a multiple tool bit driver tool, and the first handle second end comprises a box for stowing the multiple tool bit driver tool and the bladed tool in their respective inoperable positions.

REMARKS

Applicants elect the species of FIGS. 20-22, 21A and 21B.

Applicants have cancelled claims 57-70, without prejudice.

Applicants have added claims 77-89.

Claims 71-89 (as renumbered) are presented for prosecution on the merits.

Independent claims 71 and 77 read on the embodiment of elected species FIGS. 20-21, 21A and 21B. Independent claims 71 and 77 are not generic to the non-elected species.

Applicants submit that given the related patented subject matter in e.g.

U.S. 6,257,106, the present claims are in form for allowance. A first action
Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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71. (First Amendment) A multi-functional hand tool comprising, opposed members, elongated handles having oppositely disposed first and second ends, and each handle having opposed sides, and means for pivotally connecting the opposed members to the handles adjacent the first ends so that the handles open and close the members in an operable mode, at least one interchangeable tool bit, sleeve means for removably holding said tool bit, said sleeve means being formed with a closed end and an open end, said open end being formed to slidably receive said tool bit, and means for pivotably connecting the sleeve means closed end to one handle second end so that the sleeve means is pivotable from an inoperable position between the one handle sides, said sleeve means being non-removably connected to said means for pivotally connecting the closed end, [said handle] further comprising at least one bladed tool, and means for pivotally connecting said bladed tool to said one handle second end [of said one handles].